



## HIGHLIGHTS OF UTAH STATS

### from the 2008 American Community Survey

#### Social Characteristics

##### Population and Fertility

- Utah had the highest overall population growth in the United States at 2.5%—well above the national growth rate of 0.9%.
- Utah continues to have the highest birth rate in the nation.
  - Among Utah counties for which data are available Tooele County had the highest birth rate, followed by Iron, Cache, Sanpete, Davis, and Salt Lake counties.

##### Household Size and Composition

- There were about 854,000 households in Utah, averaging 3.2 persons per household—the highest in the nation. The national average household size was 2.6 persons.

##### Educational Attainment

- 90% of Utahns age 25 and older had at least graduated from high school (or equivalent) and 29% had a bachelor's degree or higher.
  - Of Utah counties where data were available, Davis County had the highest percent of high school graduates (95%) followed by Utah (94%), Cache (93%), and Washington (91%). Salt Lake and Weber counties both had the lowest rate of high school graduates—89%.
- Utah ranks 18th in the nation for people age 25 and older holding a bachelor's degree or higher (29%). The national rate is 27%.
- The high school drop-out rate in Utah is 10%, the tenth lowest in the nation. The national rate is 15%.

#### Geographic Mobility

- 82% of Utahns were living in the same residence one year earlier. The national rate is 84%.
- 11% of Utahns had moved during the past year from another residence in the same county. The national rate is 9%.
- 3% had moved from another county within Utah. The national rate is 3%.
- 4% moved to Utah from another state. The national rate is 2%.
- 1% moved to Utah from abroad. The national rate is 1%.

#### Economic Characteristics

##### Household Income

- The median household income in Utah was \$56,633 a decline from 2007 when the inflation-adjusted median income was \$57,225.
- Utah's median household income was higher than the national average, which was \$52,029 in 2008, declining from the 2007 national inflation-adjusted average of \$52,688.
  - Of counties for which data were available, Davis County had the highest median income (\$66,923), and Cache County had the lowest (\$49,256).

##### Employment

- Utah's labor force participation rate (70.0%) was higher than the national average (65.9%).
- A higher percent of Utahns (0.6%) were in the armed forces than the national average (0.5%).
- Unemployment rates increased from 3.8% in 2007 to 4.0% in 2008.

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## Health Insurance

- 84.5% of all Utahns had health insurance, either private or public. Nationally the rate was 84.9%
- 15.5% of all Utahns had no insurance.
  - Of counties in Utah for which data were available, Davis County had the highest percent of people with health insurance (90.3%), followed by Weber (85.3%) and Cache (85%) counties. Washington County had the state's lowest percent of health insured population at 80.7%.

## Poverty

- 9.7% of Utahns lived below the poverty level. The national rate was 13.2% making Utah the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country.
  - Of counties in Utah for which data were available, the lowest rates were Davis (5.8%), Washington (7.9%), Salt Lake (8.5%), Weber (10.5%), Cache (12.0%) and Utah (12.2%) counties.

## Housing Characteristics

### Housing Values

- Utah's median property value rose from \$218,700 in 2007 to \$236,000 in 2008—a 7.9% increase and second highest increase in the nation behind Wyoming.
  - Of Utah counties for which data were available, the highest median housing values were Washington County \$262,400, Utah \$258,500, Salt Lake \$257,500, and Davis \$239,800 counties. Weber County had the lowest median housing value at \$172,600. Cache County median housing value increased most over 2007 values (18.7%), while Washington County increased the least (5.5%).

- Housing values in Utah remain lower than other western states including California (\$467,000), Nevada (\$271,500), and Colorado (\$242,200).

### Housing Costs

- In Utah, median monthly housing costs for owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage were \$1,445 in 2008, lower than the national median of \$1,514.
  - California had the most expensive median housing costs per month (\$2,384) and West Virginia had the least expensive (\$878).

### Housing Vacancy Rates

- Utah's housing vacancy rates was 9.6%. Nationally, the rate was 12%.
  - Of Utah counties where data were available, Summit County has the highest vacancy rate (44.8%), followed by Wasatch (26.9%), Iron (20.5%) and Sanpete (18.3%) counties. Utah County had the lowest vacancy rate at 5.1%.

